The Migrant

A Quarterly Journal
Devoted To Tennessee Birds

Published by
The Tennessee
Ornithological
Society

JUNE 2020
Vol. 91, No. 2

THE MIGRANT
A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGY
PUBLISHED BY

THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
The TOS is a non-profit, educational, scientific and conservation organization.

EDITORIAL STAFF

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Associate Editors:

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and
Martha Waldron, 1014 Murray Hill Lane, Memphis, TN 38120 <martha.waldron@gmail.com>

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The Tennessee Warbler (TOS Newsletter) Editor: Theresa Graham, P.O. Box 366, Oakland, TN 38060
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Tennessee Ornithological Society, 5886 Wilshire Drive, Nashville, TN 37215
Printed by: Russell Printing Options, 1800 Grand Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916
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THE MIGRANT

Published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society
to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Tennessee
Issued in March, June, September and December

VOL. 91 JUNE 2020 NO. 2

The Migrant 91(2): 41-43, 2020

STATUS OF BELL'S VIREO IN WEST TENNESSEE

Bob Foehring and Rob Harbin
Memphis, Tenneessee

Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii*) (Figure 1) is a small plain bird with an exuberant, almost mechanical song. The bird is named for John Graham Bell, a taxidermist from Tappan, New York who explored with John James Audubon and taught a teenage Theodore Roosevelt how to preserve animals (Roosevelt Center 2020). While Bell's Vireo is a fairly common breeder in states west of Tennessee, it is considered a very rare local summer resident in west Tennessee and a locally uncommon summer resident at Fort Campbell, Montgomery County in middle Tennessee (Somershoe and Sloan 2015). There are several records of vagrancy during migration along the Atlantic coast and Gulf coast, but there are no documented records from east Tennessee (Somershoe and Sloan 2015).

Most early records of Bell's Vireo in west Tennessee occurred in Shelby County. The first documented record was 25 July 1934 at Son of Zion Cemetery in Memphis (McCamey and Munn 1934). The species was documented again 8 July 1935 at Sears Tower, Memphis (Coffey 1935) and 27 June 1971 at Mud Island, Memphis (Patterson 1971). Outside of Shelby County, there was one record on 7 July 1946 at Natchez Trace State Park, Henderson County (Coffey 1946).

Figure 1. Observations of Bell's Vireo have been increasing in recent years in west Tennessee, although only one confirmed nest record exists to date. Photo by David Sloss

The first record in northwestern Tennessee occurred on 27 May 1976 by T. David Pitts (eBird 1976). Another bird was not observed until eight years later in Obion County, 12 May 1984 (Waldron 1984). Other records include 6 September 1987 at Island 13 in Lake County and on 22 August 1994 at Tenemo Levee in Dyer County (Waldron 1995). There are also a small number of eBird sightings reported for West Tennessee for the 1990s and early 2000s. Most of these sightings were from four counties in northwest Tennessee (Lake, Dyer, Gibson, and Obion), but there were also sightings in Shelby County at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park 11 September 1998 and Ensley Bottoms (1991, 1996, 1999, 2007). These and other observations of Bell's Vireo for this paper were compiled from the Bell's Vireo account on eBird (https://ebird.org/species/belvir).

Since 2002, ebird entries reveal a pattern of sightings in Tennessee along the Mississippi River corridor. Particularly notable was a sighting at Black Bayou Refuge Main Unit, Dyer County in 2002 (photo on eBird, checklist S4410837) by Mike Todd. At least one Bell's Vireo was seen at this same spot May through June over a 6 year period by multiple observers. A nest with four eggs was discovered in 2003 (photo on eBird, checklist S4352380) by Mike Todd (Peeples 2013). This remains the only confirmed nest in West Tennessee. Between 2004 and 2015 there were a handful of records, almost all of single birds (usually singing males). Somershoe and Sloan (2015) summarized Bell's Vireo sightings, noting the earliest records in spring as 6 May and late fall departure dates in September and October. High counts were of only two birds. In 2017 a single bird was reported in Lake County (Preston 2017). In May 2018 Mark Greene reported one Bell's Vireo at Bogota Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Dyer County (Preston 2018) and in June three birds were reported at the same location (ebird 2018).

Compared to the small number of documented sightings from 1934 to 2018, there have been several records since then in west Tennessee including three separate locations in 2019 in Lake, Obion, Shelby, and Gibson counties and two in Dyer County. In 2020, four locations held Bell's Vireo in Dyer County, while six locations were documented across Shelby, Lauderdale, and Lake Counties. Multiple vireos were reported at several of these sites. Two birds were together at Moss Island WMA in Dyer County, and in 2020, three to eight birds were observed at Thorny Cypress WMA, pools T5 through T9, also Dyer County. In addition, two to five vireos occurred at Thorny Cypress pools 2 and 3, and two vireos were present at Thorny Cypress pool 1. Additionally, two birds were documented at Tumbleweed WMA, and three at Black Bayou Refuge in the Phillipy Unit, all in Dyer County. The farthest east sighting (not including Fort Campbell) occurred at White Oak Ridge Raptor Lookout, Perry County on 24 July 2019 (Zipperer 2019). eBird records include a growing number of Bell's Vireo records in Kentucky, Mississippi, and Arkansas along the Mississippi river as well.

In 2019 and 2020, Bell's Vireo was regularly observed in Shelby County on the south side of Walnut Grove Road near Agricenter International. One bird was photographed 4 July 2019 (photo on eBird: checklist S58077681) by an annoymous birder who saw two birds together. This sighting was reported to Martha Waldron and Dick Preston, who located one bird. With information from Dick Preston, the authors located 2 birds shortly after, including a singing male. We relocated a singing male at the same site with a second bird on

29 May 2020, and it was subsequently seen by several others through the summer. A male vireo sang at this location all summer and was heard as late as 16 August 2020.

While part of the increase in observations may reflect a higher number of birders in the right areas, the increase in sightings, the number of different sites, the presence of singing males, and the presence of multiple birds at several sites suggests that Bell's Vireo may be expanding its breeding range eastward into west Tennessee. Despite the many spring and summer records, there is no definitive proof yet of annual or widespread sustained nesting in west Tennessee.

We thank the many observers who submitted Bell's Vireo records through the years: Kevin Calhoun, Fred Carney, Phillip Casteel, Ben Coffey, Lula Coffey, Bob Foehring, Albert Ganier, Mark Greene, Rob Harbin, Kathy Holder, Franklin McCamey, Nancy Moore, C. Munn, Ken Oeser, Rob Peeples, David Pitts, John Pond, Dick Preston, Ruben Stoll, Victor Stoll, Randy Stringer, Scott Somershoe, Mike Todd, Martha Waldron, Jeff Wilson.

The authors would like to thank Hal Mitchell, Chris Sloan, Susan McWhirter, and Martha Waldron, who read an earlier version of this manuscript.

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FIRST TENNESSEE RECORD OF BOHEMIAN WAXWING

Colin D. Sumrall
Knoxville, Tennessee

On 22 November 2016 while birding at Sequoyah Park, Knox County, I observed a flock of approximately 100 Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycille cedorum*). When the flock landed in a bare tree I saw that one of the birds was larger than the others. This larger size and the rust-colored under tail coverts caught my attention immediately. In addition, the distinctive wing pattern and grayer overall coloration were very different from the adjacent Cedar Waxwings and clearly indicated a Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulous)* (Figure 1).

In 2017 the Tennessee Bird Records Committee accepted this sighting as the first record for Bohemian Waxwing in Tennessee.

Figure 1. A single Bohemian Waxwing was present with a large flock of Cedar Waxwings in Knox County, for the state's first record for this species. Photo by Colin D. Sumrall

FIRST TENNESSEE RECORD OF BRONZED COWBIRD

Scott G. Somershoe
Littleton, Colorado

On 18 November 2017, Holly Writt photographed a male Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) at her feeder in Bartlett, Shelby County (Figure 1). Mrs. Writt was uncertain of the identification at the time, but documented the bird with photographs (Figure 1). The bird apparently was not seen again after the initial observation. In mid-February 2018, Mrs. Writt sent the photos to her mother-in-law Kim Writt of Bentonville, Arkansas who subsequently forwarded the photo to the late Dr. Kimberley Smith, a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Smith sent the photos to Tennessee eBird reviewer Dan Scheiman who then forwarded them to the author of this note.

Bronzed Cowbird regularly occurs in Florida, along the Gulf Coast, and across much of southern and western Texas into southern New Mexico and Arizona. According to eBird.org, the species has occurred only a few times away from the Gulf Coast and interior Texas populations with exceptional records in northern Utah, southwestern Kansas, eastern Colorado, northwestern Missouri, and coastal South Carolina.

This sighting was accepted by the Tennessee Bird Records Committee as the first record of Bronzed Cowbird in the state (The Migrant 89: 100-101).

Figure 1. Bronzed Cowbird in Bartlett, Shelby County, Tennessee, 18 November 2017. Photo by Holly Writt.

ROUND TABLE NOTE

WINTER AMERICAN REDSTART IN SHELBY COUNTY – Late in the afternoon of 8 December 2019 I walked a trail near the Wolf River close to the Memphis – Germantown municipal line in Shelby County. I had my camera with me, and I was looking for birds. I noticed movement in a bush just off the trail and finally was able to see a small grayish bird with light yellow feathers on the outside of the tail. Though the light was dim, I was able to take a few photographs (Figure 1). I watched the bird for about thirty seconds before it moved deeper into the underbrush. I was not familiar with the bird so I sent my photographs to Jim Varner, a fellow Society member, who identified it as an American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*). He also told me that there are no winter records for west and middle Tennessee and only four in East Tennessee.

David Bearman, Memphis, Tennessee

Figure 1. An American Redstart occurred in Shelby County in December 2019, apparently a first winter record for this species in west Tennessee. Photo by David Bearman.

2020 TENNESSEE SPRING BIRD COUNTS

Ron Hoff
Loudon, Tennessee

The COVID-19 pandemic began to spread in the United States in March, and our normal spring count season was affected. Three counts were not held due to concern for personal safety.

The weather was fairly decent overall but several counts dealt with some windy conditions. Temperatures ranged from a brisk 34° F in Perry County and Elizabethton to 85° F in Nashville. Highlights included Swainson's Hawk, Ash-throated Flycatcher, 14 Western Kingbirds (new state high count), and Yellow-headed Blackbird. The total for Indigo Bunting in Lake County was a new state high total.

The counts in the table are arranged geographically from west to east. Taxonomic order follows the American Ornithological Society (AOS) Checklist of North and Middle American Birds, 60th supplement (2019) to the AOS Checklist.

COUNT SUMMARIES

Blount County (BLNT) – 0500-2044. Weather: clear; wind 0-10 mph; 32-70° F. Highlights included American Bittern, Barn Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, and Swainson's and Wilson's Warblers. Observers: Jean J. Alexander, Kat Barrow, Warren Bielenberg, Doug Bruce, Wanda DeWaard, Melinda Fawver, Marian D. Fitzgerald, Tom E. Fitzgerald, Paul Hartigan, Kim J. Henry, Stephen P. Henry, Joy Hopkins, Thomas D. Howe (compiler), Susan Hoyle, Bob Howdeshell, James R. Human, David M. Johnson, Evan Kidd, Julie Labhart, Karen J. Petrey, Doug Raybuck, Logan Rosenberg, Carol Rothschild, Martha Rudolph, Michael G. Ryon, Mary Tankersley, Harumi Tsuruoka, Janet Webber, Ralph Webber, June D. Welch, Geoffrey White, Valerie Wininger, and Randy C. Winstead.

Elizabethton (ELIZ) - 0415-2300. Weather: clear to partly cloudy; wind SW 5-10 mph; 34-80° F. Notable species included Common Goldeneye, Mississippi Kite, Peregrine Falcon, and Rusty Blackbird. Observers: Fred Alsop, Jim Anderson, Betty Bailey, Gary Bailey, Jerry Bevins, Rob Biller, Kevin Brooks, Debi Campbell, J. G. Campbell, Ron Carrico, Catherine Cummins, Diane Draper, Glen Eller, Harry Lee Farthing, Bambi Fincher, Dave Gardner, Tammy Griffey, Bill Grigsby, Jackie Hinshaw, Don Holt, Connie Irick, David Irick, Lance Jessee, Jennifer Kennedy, David Kirschke, Rick Knight (compiler), Roy Knispel, Richard Lewis, Priscilla Little, Vern Maddux, Shahram Malik, Larry McDaniel, Joe McGuiness, Cathy McNeil, Tom McNeil, Adrianna Nelson, Joe Ortola, Brookie Potter, Jean Potter, Sherri Quillen, Pete Range, Heather Risney, Judi Sawyer, Chris Soto, Michele Sparks, Bryan Stevens, Kim Stroud, Diana Tucker, Phil Turner, Scott Turner, and Charles Warden.

Lake County (LAKE) – 0345-2200. Weather: clear but severe weather the previous few days with some roads closed; an F2 or F3 tornado had cut across the southern half of the county; wind gusted to 25 mph much of the day; 40 to 60° F. Highlights included Swainson's Hawk, King Rail, Upland Sandpiper, and Ash-throated Flycatcher. Observers: Mark Greene, Andrew Lydeard, Daniel Redwine, Ruben Stoll (compiler), Victor Stoll, and Michael Todd.

Nashville (NASH) – 0540-1445. Weather: clear; wind 5-15 mph; 55-85° F. Notable finds included Greater White-fronted Goose, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Mourning Warbler, and Dickcissel. Observers: Kevin Bowden, Sandy Bivens, Susan Bradfield, Trae Bradfield, Jean Buchannan, Ed Byrne, Phillip Casteel, Richard Connors, Bonnie Fekel, Frank Fekel, Graham Gerdeman, Steve Goodbred, Gregg Greenhow, Sherlene Spicer Greenhow, Barbara Harris (compiler), John Kell, Amy Mackenzie, Camille Monahan, Emily Moorman, Amy Potter, Jan K. Shaw, Kathy Shaw, Sheila Shay, Danny Shelton, Laura Smith, Michael Smith, Chris Sloan, Josh Stevenson, and Mary Zimmerman.

Perry County (PRRY) – no times given. Weather: clear; wind N 0-15 mph; 34-70° F. Fish Crow and Swainson's Warbler were new species. Other highlights included Merlin, Pine Siskin, and 31 species of warblers. Observers: Adam Beachy, Evan Beachy, Seth Beachy, Joseph Byler, Joel Fernandez, Joe Hall, Ruben Stoll (compiler), and Victor Stoll.

Shelby County (SHLB) – 0600-1930. Weather: partly clear to partly cloud; wind S 2-10 mph; 41-71° F. Highlights included Osprey on nest with young, Sora, Willow Flycatcher, and 29 species of warblers. Observers: Judith Barrie, David Blaylock, Katie Boord, Chad Brown, Kevin Calhoon, Kathy Deshpande, Judy Dorsey, Greg Elliot, Fields Falcone, Susan Ferguson, Bob Foehring, Van Harris, Scott Heppel, Margaret Jefferson, Rusty Johnson, Dianna Johnson, Lisa Jorgenson, Cathy Justis, Wayne Kirk, Aiden Markham, Julie Markham, Miles Markham, Georges McNeil, Barbara Priddy, Forrest Priddy, Dick Preston (compiler), Virginia Reynolds, Becky Rooney, Mary Schmidt, Donna Smith, Richard Smith, Norman Soskel, Cliff VanNostrand, Jim Varner, Nitya Vittal, Martha Waldron, and Jay Walko.

2020 SPRING COUNTS

Counts	SHLB	LAKE	PRRY	NASH	BLNT	ELIZ	Totals
Date	9-May	6-May	9-May	2-May	9-May	2-May	
Species							
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	84	-	-	-	-	-	84
Canada Goose	96	4	50	103	114	440	807
Wood Duck	16	8	18	16	58	55	171
Blue-winged Teal	58	63	9	4	2	20	156
Northern Shoveler	-	8	-	3	-	-	11
Mallard	76	22	4	26	33	115	276
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	-	-	-	-	-	9	9
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Hooded Merganser	-	18	-	-	-	-	18
Common Merganser	-	-	-	-	11	-	11
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Ruddy Duck	-	3	-	2	-	-	5
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	2	3	18	-	23
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Wild Turkey	19	3	11	12	18	26	89
Pied-billed Grebe	-	2	-	2	-	1	5
Rock Pigeon	65	4	16	11	43	141	280
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	2	3	-	2	4	11
Mourning Dove	116	25	72	30	216	253	712
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	165	10	5	2	8	3	193
Black-billed Cuckoo	-	5	-	-	-	2	7
Common Nighthawk	2	1	2	-	1	-	6
Chuck-will's-widow	-	-	2	-	2	13	17
Eastern Whip-poor-will	-	-	7	-	-	24	31
Chimney Swift	151	6	25	60	114	129	485
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	36	13	19	9	17	32	126
King Rail	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Virginia Rail	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Sora	5	17	-	-	2	3	27
American Coot	2	1	-	9	-	-	12
Black-necked Stilt	41	63	-	-	-	-	104
Semipalmated Plover	-	-	12	-	-	-	12
Killdeer	35	12	9	10	19	58	143
Upland Sandpiper	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Stilt Sandpiper	7	1	-	-	-	-	8

Counts	SHLB	LAKE	PRRY	NASH	BLNT	ELIZ	Totals
Dunlin	-	8	-	-	-	-	8
Least Sandpiper	197	23	90	-	1	3	314
White-rumped Sandpiper	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pectoral Sandpiper	37	22	-	-	-	1	60
Semipalmated Sandpiper	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
Long-billed Dowitcher	-	24	-	-	-	-	24
Wilson's Snipe	-	1	1	-	1	2	5
Wilson's Phalarope	1	2	-	-	-	-	3
Spotted Sandpiper	2	3	10	6	7	17	45
Solitary Sandpiper	14	8	23	7	16	57	125
Lesser Yellowlegs	147	159	1	-	2	25	334
Willet	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
Greater Yellowlegs	1	34	1	2	-	-	38
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Ring-billed Gull	-	6	-	42	-	2	50
Caspian Tern	-	3	-	1	-	-	4
Black Tern	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Forster's Tern	-	41	-	6	-	1	48
Common Loon	-	-	-	2	1	10	13
Double-crested Cormorant	-	12	16	115	10	95	248
American Bittern	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Least Bittern	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Great Blue Heron	38	27	27	48	37	74	251
Great Egret	102	143	22	23	-	-	290
Snowy Egret	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Little Blue Heron	-	16	-	1	-	-	17
Cattle Egret	1	6	-	5	-	-	12
Green Heron	15	4	3	4	12	16	54
Black-crowned Night-Heron	-	-	-	5	2	5	12
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	1	1	-	-	1	5	8
Black Vulture	37	23	37	87	44	105	333
Turkey Vulture	39	41	63	36	56	140	375
Osprey	9	10	2	3	10	11	45
Northern Harrier	-	-	1	2	-	1	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Cooper's Hawk	5	-	1	4	6	4	20
Accipiter sp.	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Bald Eagle	3	43	8	3	4	8	69
Mississippi Kite	171	22	-	-	-	1	194
Red-shouldered Hawk	27	8	9	5	28	-	77

Counts	SHLB	LAKE	PRRY	NASH	BLNT	ELIZ	Totals
Broad-winged Hawk	3	3	2	4	6	14	32
Swainson"s Hawk	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Red-tailed Hawk	15	6	13	24	23	30	111
Hawk sp.	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Barn Owl	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
Eastern Screech-Owl	-	1	3	3	2	8	17
Great Horned Owl	-	1	2	-	1	4	8
Barred Owl	9	10	17	4	3	1	44
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Belted Kingfisher	8	1	3	7	5	11	35
Red-headed Woodpecker	29	5	7	8	2	9	60
Red-bellied Woodpecker	62	19	25	61	94	117	378
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	-	-	1	9	10
Downy Woodpecker	38	20	30	37	41	69	235
Hairy Woodpecker	-	3	6	7	7	11	34
Northern Flicker	3	3	1	4	12	47	70
Pileated Woodpecker	23	6	14	20	24	57	144
American Kestrel	3	2	-	2	-	4	11
Merlin	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
Peregrine Falcon	-	1	-	1	-	1	3
Ash-throated Flycatcher	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Great Crested Flycatcher	33	29	9	32	20	21	144
Western Kingbird	14	-	-	-	-	-	14
Eastern Kingbird	64	71	211	21	20	60	447
Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Eastern Wood-Pewee	109	24	52	39	19	11	254
Acadian Flycatcher	52	7	16	25	1	10	111
Alder Flycatcher	-	2	3	-	-	-	5
Willow Flycatcher	1	2	4	-	6	-	13
Alder/Willow Flycatcher	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Least Flycatcher	3	10	4	2	-	10	29
Empidonax sp.	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Eastern Phoebe	30	3	42	20	61	166	322
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
White-eyed Vireo	118	30	72	58	29	9	316
Bell's Vireo	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Yellow-throated Vireo	6	7	36	17	5	9	80
Blue-headed Vireo	3	1	3	5	20	107	139
Philadelphia Vireo	14	10	18	5	-	-	47
Warbling Vireo	14	19	15	7	-	12	67

Counts	SHLB	LAKE	PRRY	NASH	BLNT	ELIZ	Totals
Red-eyed Vireo	63	35	169	94	110	248	719
Blue Jay	55	22	38	73	121	273	582
American Crow	36	52	89	35	183	349	744
Fish Crow	22	18	2	-	1	2	45
Common Raven	-	-	-	-	-	12	12
Horned Lark	-	12	-	-	-	-	12
Bank Swallow	-	185	3	-	-	-	188
Tree Swallow	4	26	4	15	103	315	467
N. Rough-winged Swallow	59	25	15	55	152	121	427
Purple Martin	37	70	44	51	14	61	277
Barn Swallow	64	159	83	62	222	170	760
Cliff Swallow	189	593	426	50	67	782	2107
Swallow sp.	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Carolina Chickadee	52	28	51	91	154	236	612
Tufted Titmouse	89	40	70	88	127	226	640
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	-	-	-	8	8
White-breasted Nuthatch	16	7	21	28	25	44	141
Brown-headed Nuthatch	-	-	-	-	7	-	7
Brown Creeper	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
House Wren	-	4	1	4	7	82	98
Winter Wren	-	-	-	-	-	8	8
Sedge Wren	-	2	3	-	-	-	5
Marsh Wren	-	13	4	1	1	1	20
Carolina Wren	109	45	53	119	215	245	786
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	56	42	100	100	46	102	446
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	4	1	5	1	5	16
Eastern Bluebird	46	32	63	71	202	238	652
Veery	-	5	5	5	1	14	30
Gray-cheeked Thrush	9	10	12	12	1	-	44
Swainson's Thrush	71	24	12	81	12	6	206
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Wood Thrush	39	9	36	37	30	112	263
American Robin	69	42	40	66	444	778	1439
Gray Catbird	45	22	9	20	47	91	234
Brown Thrasher	29	11	18	25	96	89	268
Northern Mockingbird	68	16	42	41	174	149	490
European Starling	193	149	120	175	420	740	1797
Cedar Waxwing	297	139	7	112	106	381	1042

Counts	SHLB	LAKE	PRRY	NASH	BLNT	ELIZ	Totals
House Sparrow	34	19	21	13	44	59	190
House Finch	14	3	22	36	787	111	973
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Pine Siskin	-	-	1	-	-	28	29
American Goldfinch	71	18	38	83	125	353	688
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	4	-	2	2	1	9
Chipping Sparrow	11	3	36	5	59	125	239
Field Sparrow	22	20	46	73	66	81	308
Dark-eyed Junco	-	-	-	-	-	91	91
White-crowned Sparrow	1	2	-	1	-	1	5
White-throated Sparrow	-	4	-	21	1	20	46
Savannah Sparrow	4	58	15	8	1	6	92
Song Sparrow	1	-	-	9	122	333	465
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	6	7	-	-	-	13
Swamp Sparrow	-	13	6	1	4	3	27
Eastern Towhee	65	19	22	62	73	266	507
Yellow-breasted Chat	36	23	47	25	41	9	181
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Bobolink	312	681	450	7	1	1	1452
Eastern Meadowlark	48	9	34	28	23	103	245
Orchard Oriole	28	160	42	40	20	35	325
Baltimore Oriole	28	180	6	22	3	26	265
Red-winged Blackbird	229	710	112	94	204	346	1695
Brown-headed Cowbird	119	147	93	85	66	122	632
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Common Grackle	54	85	64	69	251	304	827
Ovenbird	8	3	9	5	19	171	215
Worm-eating Warbler	1	-	9	4	3	29	46
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	-	7	10	3	44	65
Northern Waterthrush	3	18	19	14	2	4	60
Golden-winged Warbler	2	4	2	-	-	5	13
Blue-winged Warbler	-	3	4	8	-	-	15
Black-and-white Warbler	13	15	24	11	8	113	184
Prothonotary Warbler	32	40	42	6	2	-	122
Swainson's Warbler	8	2	1	-	1	9	21
Tennessee Warbler	109	57	40	94	7	-	307
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Nashville Warbler	2	11	4	12	-	1	30
Mourning Warbler	-	2	-	1	-	-	3
Kentucky Warbler	26	3	10	16	1	3	59

Counts	SHLB	LAKE	PRRY	NASH	BLNT	ELIZ	Totals
Common Yellowthroat	52	57	47	72	44	25	297
Hooded Warbler	18	2	28	15	15	171	249
American Redstart	38	15	28	4	5	25	115
Cape May Warbler	-	1	-	11	4	-	16
Cerulean Warbler	-	-	3	2	-	-	5
Northern Parula	48	22	59	38	18	68	253
Magnolia Warbler	15	17	15	1	1	4	53
Bay-breasted Warbler	14	3	55	14	5	-	91
Blackburnian Warbler	6	4	24	13	-	12	59
Yellow Warbler	19	28	28	6	4	8	93
Chestnut-sided Warbler	38	20	15	21	4	36	134
Blackpoll Warbler	26	43	19	7	-	1	96
Black-throated Blue Warbler	-	-	-	1	1	103	105
Palm Warbler	9	48	68	21	5	4	155
Pine Warbler	4	-	8	1	10	13	36
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	13	5	42	11	57	129
Yellow-throated Warbler	8	10	18	13	7	32	88
Prairie Warbler	12	1	69	28	20	3	133
Black-throated Green Warbler	10	9	30	22	7	144	222
Canada Warbler	-	3	4	2	-	37	46
Wilson's Warbler	1	5	3	-	1	-	10
Summer Tanager	85	33	40	59	1	1	219
Scarlet Tanager	8	5	33	43	16	94	199
Northern Cardinal	215	100	129	198	367	364	1373
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	29	24	28	33	3	49	166
Blue Grosbeak	36	23	12	10	4	5	90
Indigo Bunting	194	936	254	133	83	97	1697
Painted Bunting	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Dickcissel	99	272	110	1	3	-	485

Counts	SHLB	LAKE	PRRY	NASH	BLNT	ELIZ	Totals
Total individuals	6461	7159	5099	4319	6993	12789	42820
Total species	136	176	147	150	141	159	221
Observers	37	6	8	29	32	51	163
Parties	-	3	4	9	20	22	58
Party hours	83.75	42	39	55.15	135.57	145	500.47
Hours by car	12.5	16	18	8.45	46.9	-	101.85
Hours by foot	71.25	25	19	46.7	88.67	-	250.62
Hours by canoe or other	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
Miles by car	47.5	94	70	96	375.7	-	683.2
Miles by foot	40.75	16.5	19	45.67	59.1	-	181.02
Miles by canoe or other	-	2	4	-	-	-	6
Hours owling	0.75	3	2	0.82	2.83	10	19.4
Miles owling	0.5	1	5	1.9	1.38	-	9.78
Feeder observers	-	-	-	-	12	-	12
Feeder hours	-	-	-	-	14.35	-	14.35

IN MEMORIUM: MACK PRICHARD (1939-2020)

Mack Pritchard 1939 – 2020. Photo courtesy of Friends of South Cumberland State Park

Born in Dyersburg in 1939, Mack Prichard moved with his family to Memphis when he was five. Mack credits his parents, Mack Sr. and Bessie Smith, for his strong interest in conservation and nature. His father took him "out to the woods" to Reelfoot Lake; his mother didn't make him give up the natural "treasures" he collected from his outings, no matter what he had in his pockets. Environmental activism came early; his Dad chauffeured him to speak with local rotary, bird, and garden clubs. Interested in documenting his journey early on, Mack bought a Nikon camera from a pawn shop in Memphis when he was about 18. He used that same camera for most of his life, taking thousands of photographs of the animals, plants, places, and people that he got to know during his many miles traveling across Tennessee.

At 15 years old, Mack was offered a job as a seasonal naturalist at Meeman-Shelby State Park. From this beginning, Mack's 50 year career eventually led him to be the State Naturalist, whom many called the "Conservation Conscience" of Tennessee. When Mack retired in 2008, he was named the State Naturalist Emeritus. Young Mack became a trusted ally of the local bird and garden clubs, who alerted Mack to needed conservation and protection efforts in the state. During his tenure, Mack was instrumental in negotiating acquisitions for significant natural areas in the state, including Radnor Lake, Savage Gulf, Fiery Gizzard, and May Prairie.

Mack was a long time Life Member of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS), where he served on several influential committees over the years. Mack and other TOS members organized the first annual Eagle Watch at Reelfoot in January 1975, and he wrote a resolution, with TOS, to address issues of pollution, siltation and loss of biodiversity at Reelfoot in 1980. He often led or participated in walks with the Highland Rim, Chattanooga and the Nashville Chapters of TOS and later the Cookeville Chapter. He always kept feeders in his yard, mostly of his own design. Whether shivering in the freezing cold in a church parking lot every year waiting for a Golden Eagle to fly over, climbing the Short Mountain fire tower to watch hawks, sneaking around Goose Pond trying to see secretive marsh birds, hiking Radnor Lake to find nesting Prothonotary Warblers, or waiting for a Short-eared owl, Mack kept us coming back for more. He was the inspiration for many of us to do the same.

As State Naturalist, Mack believed that we should bring the people to the parks, and he spent much time making sure those areas are there for future generations. For years, he spearheaded the park Naturalist training in outdoor education for Tennessee State Parks. We were among the many fortunate to work with Mack. Whether in the field or in a meeting room, Mack stressed making your message meaningful to your audience. Mack was a realist who knew not everyone could visit parks, so he brought the parks to the people through inspirational presentations. No one could hold the mesmerized attention of both an 8 year old and an 80 year old during the same presentation as Mack could. He was one of a kind.

There will never be another.

Mack passed away on 28 April 2020 in Cookeville, Tennessee. Thanks to Mack, Tennessee is a better place for us all.

Candy Swan, Murfreesboro and Bob Ford, Brownsville, Tennessee

The Migrant 91(2): 57, 2020

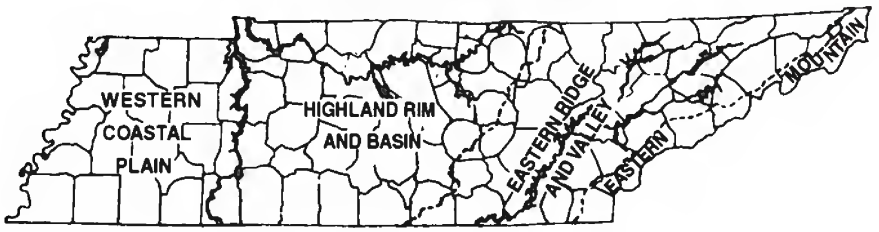
THE SPRING 2020 TOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The annual TOS spring meeting and the meeting of the TOS Board of Directors was cancelled in 2020 due to the rapid expansion of the coronavirus COVID-19 in the United States. President Danny Gaddy and the Board of Directors decided the responsible action was to cancel the meeting in order to slow the spread of the pandemic and help ensure the safety and wellbeing of TOS members. The Memphis Chapter of the TOS had planned to host the spring meeting. The Board of Directors will reconvene in the Fall of 2020 if an in-person meeting is possible, and it will be hosted by the John W. Sellars Chapter of TOS.

Cyndi Routledge, Secretary

THE WINTER SEASON

Richard L. Knight, Editor



1 December 2019 - 29 February 2020

This was another mild and wet winter. These mild conditions likely led to the reduced numbers and diversity of waterfowl seen in the state, albeit with a lingering Barrow's Goldeneye, a Eurasian Wigeon, and four reports of Tundra Swan. No Long-tailed Ducks or scoters were reported, aside from two reports of Surf Scoter in the Mountain Region. Grebes were highlighted by a Western in Nashville, two reports of individual Red-necked, and a lone Eared at Reelfoot Lake. The long-time wintering Eared Grebes at South Holston Lake failed to appear this year. Notable gulls included single Little, Iceland, and Great Black-backed. Landbird rarities included a White-winged Dove, two Black-chinned Hummingbirds, and a roost of four Long-eared Owls. Also notable were a Spotted Towhee, two Harris's Sparrows, and two Western Tanagers. Boreal irruptives were scarce.

For the second straight winter, lingering or overwintering migrants seemed to dominate the scene. Common Gallinules were found at two sites in the Ridge and Valley. A Long-billed Dowitcher in Lake County was only about the fifth winter record in the state. Great Egrets occurred in all four regions, and a Green Heron wintered in Nashville for the fourth consecutive year. Much more unusual for the season was a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Sevier County. Ospreys occurred in two regions. Common Nighthawks in Knoxville continued a recent trend of lingering into December in that city, while another was seen in Williamson County in early January. There were three reports each of Northern Rough-winged Swallow and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Five species of unexpected warblers were found: Tennessee, American Redstart, Cape May (two records), Northern Parula (two records), and Yellow-throated (two records). That's less than last winter, but still more than normal. Also notable were Baltimore Oriole (two records), Indigo Bunting, and Dickcissel. Summer Tanager is known to occasionally occur here in winter, and one was found again this season; however, a Scarlet Tanager in Humphreys County was among few ever documented in the U.S. during winter.

Standard Abbreviations

ad - adult
CBC - Christmas Bird Count
Co - County
Cr - Creek
ers - earliest reported sighting
et al. - and others
fide - reported by
im - immature
L - Lake
lrs - latest reported sighting
max - maximum count
m.ob. - many observers
Mtn - Mountain
NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
R - River
SNA - State Natural Area
SP - State Park
WMA - Wildlife Management Area

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION - - Temperatures in December and January averaged warmer by 4 and 5 degrees, respectively, while those in February were within normal ranges. Precipitation was down by nearly 2 inches in December, but up by a little more than 2 inches in both January and February.

Overwintering hummingbirds and passerines highlighted the season. Fayette County feeders hosted three hummingbirds: a Black-chinned and a Rufous captured and banded by Cyndi Routledge of Southeastern Avian Research, and a third hummingbird at a private residence was not reported until after the bird had departed and was not identified to species. An adult male Baltimore Oriole spent the period at a feeder in Tipton County, and at least one female Summer Tanager visited feeders in Shelby County. Most unusual was a Cape May Warbler visiting a feeder in Shelby County, while a Yellow-throated Warbler was seen at Paris Landing. Irruptive species were scarce, with very few Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, or Red-breasted Nuthatches. Other highlights were an Iceland Gull in Obion County and four Long-eared Owls at a roost in Dyer County.

Thanks to everyone who submitted observations, especially those with photographs.

Goose - Tern: **Cackling Goose**: 2 Jan (5) Shelby Farms (CVN). **Tundra Swan**: 23-25 Dec (1) Busselltown Unit of Tennessee NWR, Decatur Co (RS, VS); 4 Jan (1) Obion R Bottoms, Obion Co (Kirk Lowrance, photo on eBird). **Blue-winged Teal**: 29 Jan (2) Phillipy (AL). **Common Goldeneye**: 27 Dec (1600) Paris Landing SP (AT), max. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**: continuing thru 18 Dec (1 male) Paris Landing SP (m.ob.). **Common Merganser**: 25 Jan / 19 Feb (1 male / 1 female) Britton Ford (MAG, MCT et al. / VS). **Horned Grebe**: 1 Dec (1) Shelby Farms (CVN), rare in Co. **Eared Grebe**: 15-29 Feb (1) Reelfoot L (RS, DR). **Black-chinned Hummingbird**: from Oct thru 14 Feb (1 female) Somerville, Fayette Co (Debbie Bruce, Thomas Blevins, photo, m.ob.), 8th state record. **Rufous Hummingbird**: from Oct thru Feb (1 female, banded) Arlington, Fayette Co (Judy Dorsey, m.ob.). **hummingbird sp.**: late Oct thru 23 Jan (1) Arlington, Fayette Co (fide Judy Dorsey). **Virginia Rail**: 24 Feb (1) Wolf River WMA (DR). **Sora**: 24 Dec thru season (1-2) Shelby Farms (Norman Soskel, m.ob.). **Sandhill Crane**: 5 Jan (27) Shelby Farms (Douglas Logan); 28 Jan (31) East Memphis (Nick Crafton); 2 Feb (11) Shelby Forest (BFo); 2 Feb (14)

T.O. Fuller SP, Shelby Co (Michael Jones); all fly-overs. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: 14 Dec / 9 Jan (2 / 1) Black Bayou (BFo, RH, Hal Mitchell, photo / MAG). **Greater Yellowlegs**: 14 Dec (1) Obion Co, on Reelfoot CBC (AT); 29 Feb (7) Great River Rd (RS), ers. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 16 Feb (1) Robinson Bayou, Lake Co (Glen Criswell), ers; 25 Feb (2) near Tiptonville, Lake Co (MAG); 29 Feb (1) Great River Rd (RS). **Iceland Gull**: 19 Dec (1 im, *thayeri*) landfill in Obion Co (MAG). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: 10 Dec (14) Camden landfill, Benton Co (AT), max; 14 Dec / 22 Feb (1 ad) Reelfoot L (MAG, AL / SA, JH); thru season (1-2) Paris Landing SP to Britton Ford (m.ob.). **Forster's Tern**: 29 Feb (8) Reelfoot L (RS), ers.

Loon - Falcon: **Red-throated Loon**: 16 Dec - 5 Jan (1) Paris Landing SP (RS, m.ob.). **Great Egret**: 27 Jan (1) Crockett Co (MAG); 27 Jan - 25 Feb (1-2) Phillipy / Black Bayou area (DR, MAG, m.ob.); 8-17 Feb (2) Thorny Cypress WMA, Dyer Co (RS). **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: 1 Jan (1 im) Black Slough, Lake Co (Mike Bohannon, photo). **Osprey**: 23 Dec (1) Hatchie NWR, Haywood Co (Larry Chitwood); 28 Dec (1) Shelby Forest (Rusty Johnson, Dianna Johnson). **Golden Eagle**: 25 Jan (1) Big Sandy Unit, Henry Co (MAG, MCT et al.); 19 Feb (2) Britton Ford (VS). **"Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk**: reported from Crockett, Gibson, Lake, Obion and Shelby Cos (MAG et al.). **Rough-legged Hawk**: 5 Dec - 25 Feb (1) Jolly Landing, Lake Co (MAG, m.ob.); 19 Dec / 5 Feb (1) Cypress Cr Bottoms, Obion Co (MAG). **Long-eared Owl**: early Feb into Mar (4) Dyer Co (DR, m.ob.). **Short-eared Owl**: 25 Jan (1) Wolf River WMA (Gaynell Perry, MTOS); 12-17 Feb (1-2) Booths Point, Dyer Co (RS et al.); 17-18 Feb (1) Fritz Landing (DR); 17 Feb (1) Reelfoot Hickory Ridge Rd, Lake Co (MM, BSc et al.). **Merlin**: 4 Dec (1) East Memphis (CVN); 2 Jan (1) Shelby Farms (CVN); 7 Feb (1) Bogota WMA, Dyer Co (RS, VS); 17 Feb (1) Fritz Landing (DR); 22 Feb (1) Great River Rd (SA, JH); 24 Feb (1) Wolf River WMA (DR); 29 Feb (2) Lake Co (RS). **Peregrine Falcon**: 2 Dec (1) Britton Ford (Robert Wheat); 30 Dec (1) Reelfoot L (DR); 2 Jan (1) Shelby Farms (CVN); 22 Feb (1) Dyer Co (SA, JH).

Vireo - Siskin: **Blue-headed Vireo**: 13-14 Dec (1) Reelfoot L (BFo, MAG); 15 / 26 Dec and 21 Jan (1) Shelby Farms (BFo, JV, Scott Heppel); 18 Jan (1) Collierville, Shelby Co (RH); 13 Feb (2) Overton Park, Shelby Co (Melissa McMasters); 17 Feb (1) Tipton Co (DDP); 18 Feb (1) Big Cypress Tree SP, Weakley Co (MM, BSc et al). **Fish Crow**: 19 Feb (6) Paris, Henry Co (Robert Wheat). **Tree Swallow**: 18 Feb (21) Black Bayou (DR), ers. **Purple Martin**: 26 Feb (1) Lichterman Nature Center, Shelby Co (Mary Schmidt), ers. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: 18 Feb (1, at feeder) Millington, Shelby Co (Van Harris), only report. **House Wren**: 19 Dec (1) Benton Co (AT); 15 Feb (1) Lake Co (AL); 19 Feb (1) Camden WMA, Benton Co (MM); 24 Feb (2) Wolf River WMA (DR). **Marsh Wren**: thru season (up to 5) Reelfoot L (RS et al.); 22 Feb (1) Robbins-Halle Preserve, Shelby Co (CVN et al.). **Gray Catbird**: 15 Dec (1) Lichterman Nature Center, Shelby Co (Mary Schmidt); 22 Dec (2) Shelby Forest (Rusty Johnson, Dianna Johnson). **Purple Finch**: few reports. **Pine Siskin**: 24 Jan (2) Paris Landing SP (DDP); 25 Jan (2) Mt. Orange, Gibson Co (MAG); 24 Feb (1) Wolf River WMA (DR).

Longspur - Dickcissel: **Lapland Longspur**: scarce this winter. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: 30 Dec (1) Dyer Co (DR, photo). **American Tree Sparrow**: 20 Jan - 2 Mar (2-4) Phillipy (DR, AL, m.ob.). **Harris's Sparrow**: 19 Dec (1 ad) Obion Co (MAG). **Vesper Sparrow**: 18 Feb (2) Weakley Co (MM, BSc et al.). **LeConte's Sparrow**: 2 Dec / 7 Jan (7 / 3) jct Hwy 79 / Great River Rd, Lake Co (DR); 13 Dec (8) Gibson Co (RS, VS, AT); 12 Feb (4) Booths Point, Dyer Co (RS et al.); 17 Feb (8) Fritz Landing (DR); 17 Feb (3) Reelfoot Hickory Ridge Rd, Lake Co (MM, BSc et al.); 18 Feb (2) Robinson Bayou, Lake Co (DR). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: 24 Feb (1) Wolf River WMA (DR). **Baltimore Oriole**: 1 Dec into Mar (1 male, at feeder) Munford, Tipton Co (DDP). **Western Meadowlark**: 19 Dec / 18 Feb (5 / 2) S Garrett Sawmill Rd, Obion Co (MAG / MM, BSc et al.); 14 Jan (15) N. Garrett Sawmill Rd, Obion Co (MAG); 8 Feb (5) Everett - Stewart Airport, Obion Co (MCT, RS); 25 Feb (2) Free Bridge Rd, Lake Co (MAG). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 7 Jan - 17 Feb (1) Reelfoot L (DR, m.ob.); 11 Feb (1) Gibson Co (MAG); 18 Feb (1) Fritz Landing (DR); 18 Feb (1) Flowers Sheep Ridge Rd, Lake Co (DR); plus several reports in Shelby Co (m.ob.). **Common Yellowthroat**: thru season (1-2) Reelfoot L (RS, DR, AL); 24 Feb (1 male) Hatchie NWR, Haywood Co (DR). **American Redstart**: 8 Dec (1) East Memphis (David Bearman, photo, fide JV). **Cape May Warbler**: 11 Jan - 7 Feb (1, at feeder) Collierville, Shelby Co (RH, m.ob., photo). **Palm Warbler**: 26 Dec (1) Shelby Farms (JV). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: 7 Dec (1) Paris Landing SP (FF, Chris Agee). **Summer Tanager**: 15 Dec (1 female) / 23 Jan (1 female) Germantown, Shelby Co (Chad Brown / Susan Riley), at separate feeders, but likely the same bird. **Dickcissel**: 13 Dec (1) Gibson Co (RS, VS, AT).

Locations: Black Bayou - Lake Co; Britton Ford - Henry Co; Fritz Landing - Lake Co; Great River Rd - Dyer Co (unless specified otherwise); Paris Landing SP - Henry Co; Phillipy - Lake Co; Reelfoot L - Lake Co (unless specified otherwise); Shelby Farms - Shelby Co; Shelby Forest - Shelby Co; Wolf River WMA - Fayette Co.

DICK D. PRESTON, Munford, TN dickpreston48@gmail.com

HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION - - Weather in Middle Tennessee this winter was above normal in both temperature and precipitation. Temperatures in December were 8 degrees above normal, in January 7.3 degrees above normal, and in February 3.2 degrees above normal. Similarly, precipitation was above normal each month: December (+ 0.75 inches), January (+ 1.35 inches), and February (+ 2.75 inches). For most of the winter season the region enjoyed a Eurasian Wigeon, Red-throated and Pacific loons, a Western Grebe, a Little Gull, and a Spotted Towhee. Other birds of interest included Red-necked Grebe, Harris's Sparrow, and two Western Tanagers.

Goose - Rail: **Snow Goose**: 16 Dec (27, flying over) marsh on Walter S. Davis Blvd, Nashville (GG); 1 Feb (1) Sparta, White Co (RSh, DSh). **Ross's Goose**: 10 Dec (1) New City L, Dickson Co (DR); 16 Dec (2, flying over) marsh on Walter S. Davis Blvd, Nashville

(GG); 29 Jan (1) Williamson Co (Jim Arnett); 2 Feb (1) Liberty Park, Montgomery Co (Cyndi Routledge, Steve Routledge). **Snow x Ross's Goose**: 2 Feb (1, blue) Williamson Co (Oliver Zahn, m.ob., photos). **Greater White-fronted Goose**: 9 Dec (21) Percy Priest L (GG); 29 Jan (2) Williamson Co (Jim Arnett); 22 Feb (17) Robertson Co (Tony Lance, MS et al.). **Cackling Goose**: 2 Feb (5) Williamson Co (Paige Oneal, m.ob.). **Blue-winged Teal**: 28 Jan (2 males) Duck R Unit (DR, AL); 31 Jan - 9 Feb (1) marsh on Walter S. Davis Blvd, Nashville (FF). **Eurasian Wigeon**: 21 Dec - 6 Feb (1 male) Duck R Unit (VS, m.ob.). **Common Merganser**: 16 Dec (2 males) Jennings Cr, Jackson Co (MM); 24 Dec (1 female) Percy Priest Field Trial Area, Rutherford Co (Daniel Estabrooks); 8 Feb (1 male) Woods Reservoir (m.ob.). **Horned Grebe**: 12 Jan (400+) Percy Priest L (GG, MS, Chris Sloan), max. **Red-necked Grebe**: 31 Dec / 8 Feb (1) Woods Reservoir (SNM, NPM). **Western Grebe**: 21 Dec into Mar (1) Percy Priest L (Richard Connors, Jan Shaw, m.ob.). **White-winged Dove**: 3-4 Dec (1) Nolensville, Williamson Co (Hugh Barger). **Common Nighthawk**: 3 Jan (1) Williamson Co (GG). **Virginia Rail**: 19 Dec (1) Hurricane Mills, Humphreys Co (RS, VS); 19 Dec (1) New Johnsonville, Humphreys Co (AT); 23 Dec (1) Fowler Rd, Lincoln Co (Evan Buck); 11 Feb (1) Perry Co (RS). **Sora**: 23 Dec (1) Fowler Rd, Lincoln Co (Evan Buck).

Dunlin - Falcon: **Dunlin**: 27 Dec (2) Bark Camp Barrens sod farm, Coffee Co (SNM, NPM). **Little Gull**: 12 Jan into Mar (1 ad) Percy Priest L (JN, Robin Nation, m.ob., photos). **Franklin's Gull**: continuing thru 9 Dec (1) Percy Priest L (GG, m.ob.). **Laughing Gull**: 30 Jan (1 im) Pickwick L, Hardin Co (AL). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: 6 Dec (1 ad) Percy Priest L (GG). **Great Black-backed Gull**: 16 Dec (1 im) Old Hickory L (GG). **Red-throated Loon**: 3 Dec thru Feb (1) Percy Priest L (GG, RS, VS, m.ob.). **Pacific Loon**: 3 Dec thru Feb (1-3) Percy Priest L (GG, RS, VS, m.ob.). **American White Pelican**: 17-25 Jan (300-420) Percy Priest L, Rutherford Co (JN); 31 Jan (59) Duck R Unit (refuge staff); 1 Feb (40) Cumberland R, Cheatham Co (JH); 29 Feb (5) Woods Reservoir (SNM). **Great Egret**: 6 Jan - 9 Feb (1) Drake's Cr, Sumner Co (Jerry Webb, MS); 24 Jan (1) Cross Cr NWR, Stewart Co (m.ob.). **Green Heron**: 17 Dec - 21 Feb (1) Centennial Park, Davidson Co (Abra Osorio, GG, FF), 4th straight winter at this site. **Golden Eagle**: 3 Dec / 16 Feb (1 im) Perry Co (RS); 7-21 Dec (1-2) Duck R Unit (AT, RS, VS). **Barn Owl**: 18 Dec (1) Davidson Co (GG). **Short-eared Owl**: 24 Dec - 6 Jan (1) Eagleville, Rutherford Co (Kristy Baker, m.ob.); 31 Dec - 21 Jan (1) Fort Campbell, Montgomery Co (DJS). **Merlin**: 6 Dec (1) Percy Priest L (GG); 18 Dec (1) Davidson Co (GG); 7 Feb (1) Bedford Co (RDH, DMy); 12 Feb (1) Humphreys Co (VS); 28 Feb (1) Radnor L, Davidson Co (Cyndi Routledge, Steve Routledge); 28 Feb (1) Cherry Bottoms, Perry Co (RS). **Peregrine Falcon**: 5 Dec (1) Bells's Bend (GG); 9 / 22 Jan (1) Nashville (GG / Rick Shipkowski); 13 Jan (1) Montgomery Co (JH); 28 Jan (1) Duck R Unit (DR, AL).

Vireo - Catbird: **Blue-headed Vireo**: 7 Dec (1) Pickwick Dam, Hardin Co (RS, VS); 15 Dec (1) Montgomery Co (JH); 23 Dec (1) Savannah CBC (DJS, RH). **Fish Crow**: 21 Dec (1) Duck R Unit CBC. **Tree Swallow**: 16 Feb (2) Percy Priest L (Robert Chadwick), ers; 29 Feb (100) Woods Reservoir (SNM), max. **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**: 10 Dec (2) Duck R Unit (RS, VS); 24 Jan (1) Percy Priest L (Ed LeGrand, JN). **Purple Martin**: 14 Feb

(1) Perry Co (RS), ers. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: 14 Dec (1) Montgomery Co (JH); 23 Dec (1) Savannah CBC; only reports. **Brown-headed Nuthatch**: continues to expand in Hardin Co, found at 5 sites on Savannah CBC (fide DJS); 8 Feb (2) Woods Reservoir (m.ob.). **House Wren**: 2 Dec (1) Perry Co (VS); 5 Dec (2) Bell's Bend (GG). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 21 Dec (1) Duck R Unit CBC. **Gray Catbird**: 7 / 18 Dec (1) Perry Co (RS); 14 Dec (2) Nashville CBC.

Finch -Bunting: **Purple Finch**: scarce this winter. **Red Crossbill**: 31 Dec (3) Fort Campbell, Montgomery and Stewart Cos (DJS). **Lapland Longspur**: 22 Feb (10) Robertson Co (Tony Lance, MS et al.). **LeConte's Sparrow**: 3 Dec / 6 Jan (2) Duck R Unit (DR); 9 Dec (1) Humphreys Co (AT). **Harris's Sparrow**: 19 Dec - 31 Jan (1) Hurricane Mills, Humphreys Co (RS, VS), returning bird. **Vesper Sparrow**: 7 Jan (1) Bell's Bend (FF); 9 Feb (2) Bark Camp Barrens sod farm, Coffee Co (SNM, NPM). **Spotted Towhee**: 7 Dec - 12 Feb (1 female) Humphreys Co (RS, VS, photo, m.ob.). **Brewer's Blackbird**: 22 Feb (1 male) Perry Co (RS). **Tennessee Warbler**: 1 Jan (1) Old Hickory Dam (GG, MS, Abra Osorio). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 30 Dec (1) Richland Cr Greenway, Davidson Co (Peter Reisfeld, photo); 13 Jan (1) Old Hickory Dam (FF); 11 Feb (1) Bell's Bend (FF); 22 Feb (1) Wilson Co (JN, Robin Nation). **Common Yellowthroat**: thru 21 Dec (1 male) Humphreys Co (RS); 23 Dec (1) Walker Branch SNA, Hardin Co, on Savannah CBC. **Cape May Warbler**: 22 Dec (1) Seven Points Campground on Percy Priest L (RS), 9th winter record in state. **Palm Warbler**: 15 Dec / 18 Jan (2) Liberty Park, Montgomery Co (Stefan Woltmann / Nicole Santoyo). **Scarlet Tanager**: 19 Dec (1 male) Hwy 13S at Duck R, Humphreys Co (RS, VS, photo on eBird). **Western Tanager**: 14 Jan (1, at feeder) Davidson Co (Eli Haislip, photo); 23 Feb (1, at feeder) Wilson Co (Carolyn Johansson et al.), present for 3rd straight winter. **Indigo Bunting**: 3 Dec (1) Edwin Warner Park, Davidson Co (GG); 21 Dec (1) Duck R Unit CBC.

Locations: Bell's Bend - Davidson Co; Duck R Unit - unit of Tennessee NWR, Humphreys Co; Old Hickory L - Davidson Co; Percy Priest L - Davidson Co (unless specified otherwise); Savannah - Hardin Co; Woods Reservoir - Franklin Co.

STEPHEN C. ZIPPERER, Murfreesboro, TN stczipperer@gmail.com

CUMBERLAND PLATEAU / RIDGE and VALLEY REGION - - Mild and wet well describe this winter. In fact, it was the fifth warmest winter on record in the Tri-cities area. Each month saw a surplus of precipitation. The heaviest rains came in February (8 inches), which was the second wettest on record for that month in the Tri-cities, trailing only February of last year.

Duck numbers were very low this winter, particularly of diving ducks. This was especially true in the Tri-cities area, where there were no Canvasback reports and only single reports of both Greater Scaup and Common Goldeneye. There were no scoter or Long-tailed Duck reports in the whole region. However, Tundra Swans occurred at two stes.

Individual Rufous and Black-chinned hummingbirds continued from autumn at their

host feeders. Common Gallinules were found at two sites, joing few previous winter records in the state. Tardy migrants included Common Nighthawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Parula, and Yellow-throated Warbler, plus a wintering Baltimore Oriole and a Northern Rough-winged Swallow that partially overwintered. The trend of more wintering American White Pelicans, Great Egrets, and Ospreys continued. Boreal irruptives were quite scarce this winter. Notable rarities included Red-necked Grebe, Red-throated Loon, and American Tree Sparrow. This region continues to host the majority of early arriving Tree Swallows in the state, plus had very early Barn and Cliff swallows

Goose - Crane: **Snow Goose**: 1-3 Dec (1) Bristol, Sullivan Co (Rob Biller, Ron Carrico); 9 / 16 Dec (2 / 16) Lakeshore Park, Roane Co (Chuck Estes / MM et al.); 21-22 Dec (1) Lackey Cr, Blount Co (J.D. Johnston); thru 18 Jan (1) Hiwassee Refuge (m.ob.); 27 Feb (1) Chattanooga (Dan Jacobson, m.ob.). **Ross's Goose**: 9-13 Dec (1) Kingsport (BFi, SQ); 9-16 Dec (1-2) Watts Bar L (RoK, m.ob.); 27 Feb (1) Chattanooga (Dan Jacobson, m.ob.). **Greater White-fronted Goose**: 16 Dec (13) Lakeshore Park, Roane Co (MM et al.); 16 Dec - 11 Feb (2) Ooltewah, Hamilton Co (m.ob.); 1-21 Jan (3) Bledsoe Co (RSh, DSh); 11 Jan / 2-16 Feb (1) Fort Loudoun L (Valerie Wininger); 8-10 Feb (1) Pellissippi State campus, Knox Co (Shane Williams, m.ob.); 15 Feb into Mar (3) Falcon Rd, Jefferson Co (Harumi Umi, m.ob.). **Tundra Swan**: 11 / 16 Dec (6 / 1) Warrior's Path SP, Sullivan Co (BFi, SQ); 27 Dec - 25 Jan (1-4) Hiwassee Refuge (Charles Murray, m.ob.). **Blue-winged Teal**: Dec thru Feb (1) Gupton Wetland, Roane Co (RoK); 20 Jan / 17 Feb (1) Kingsport (Tammy Griffey / RLK); 27 Feb (2) Brainerd Levee, Hamilton Co (BD). **Canvasback**: 17 Jan (250) Hiwassee Refuge (RSh, DSh), max. **Common Merganser**: 19 Dec (15 female) John Sevier L (SHu); 21 Dec (2 female) Norris L, Union Co (BSc, MM); 21 Dec (1 female) Nickajack L, Marion Co (Libby Wolfe et al.); 28 Feb (3) Warrior's Path SP, Sullivan Co (SQ, BFi); 28 Feb (3) L Tansi, Cumberland Co (Ed LeGrand). **Red-necked Grebe**: 4-10 Dec (1) North Blythe Ferry Landing, Rhea Co (Robert Hunt, m.ob.). **Rufous Hummingbird**: from fall thru Feb (1) Anderson Co (m.ob.). **Black-chinned Hummingbird**: from fall thru 7 Feb (1) McMinn Co (m.ob.). **Common Nighthawk**: 1-13 Dec (2-7) UT campus, Knox Co (Chris Welsh), continuing trend of Dec lingerers at this site. **Sora**: 1 Jan - 22 Feb (1-2) Alcoa (TH). **Virginia Rail**: 12 Jan (3) Standifer Gap Marsh (JR); 12 Jan (1) Alcoa (TH); 18 Jan (1) Kyker Bottoms (Mike Ryon); 16-25 Feb (1) Kingsport (BFi, SQ, m.ob.). **Common Gallinule**: 1-28 Jan (1) Alcoa (TH); 2 Jan (2) Phipps Bend, Hawkins Co (SHu, Gary Bailey). **Whooping Crane**: 31 Dec - 2 Feb (1-2) Hiwassee Refuge (Charles Murray, m.ob.).

Sandpiper - Falcon: **Least Sandpiper**: 4-19 Jan (4-6) Chester Frost Park, Hamilton Co (JR, m.ob.); 9 Feb (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (BD). **Spotted Sandpiper**: 5 Dec (1) Kingston, Roane Co (RoK). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 22-28 Feb (1) Brainerd Levee, Hamilton Co (BD), ers. **Forster's Tern**: 31 Dec (1) Chickamauga L, Hamilton Co (Charlie Muise). **Red-throated Loon**: 5 Feb (1) Fort Loudoun L (TH). **American White Pelican**: thru mid Feb (up to 400) Hiwassee Refuge and vicinity (m.ob.); 5 Dec (32) Watts Bar L (RoK); 8 Dec - 23 Feb (up to 90) Fort Loudoun L (m.ob.); 29 Feb (flocks of 31 and 48) Hamilton Co (BD), flying north. **Great Egret**: late Nov thru season (up to 18) Lackey Cr, Blount Co (TH, WB, m.ob.); late

Nov thru season (1) Kingsport (BFi, SQ, m.ob.); 28 Dec - 25 Jan (3-10) Hiwassee Refuge (RSh, DSh, m.ob.); 1 Jan (4) Riley Cr Rec Area, Watts Bar L (RoK). **Osprey**: thru season (2+) Knoxville and Kingston area lakes (m.ob.); 11-31 Jan (1) Baylor L and nearby Tennessee R (LT); 12 Jan (1) L Tansi, Cumberland Co (Ed LeGrand); 12 Feb (2) Watts Bar L, Meigs Co (Karen Eagle); 13 Feb (1) Ooltewah, Hamilton Co (David Stone). **Merlin**: two dozen reports from Blount, Campbell, Greene, Hamilton, Hawkins, Knox, Monroe, Sullivan and Washington Cos. **Peregrine Falcon**: thru season (1) Chickamauga Dam, Hamilton Co (m.ob.); 16 Jan (1) Bowmantown, Washington Co (RLK); 25 Feb (1) Cherokee Farm, Knox Co (Doug Raybuck).

Shrike - Wren: **Loggerhead Shrike**: reported from Blount, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hawkins, Jefferson, Loudon, Marion, McMinn, Monroe, Roane, Sullivan, Van Buren and Washington Cos; mostly just 1 or 2 birds per Co. **Fish Crow**: 31 Jan thru season (1-2) Kingsport (BFi, SQ, m.ob.). **Common Raven**: 6 Jan (1) along Hwy I-81, northern Greene Co (Cade Campbell); 2 Feb (2) Rockford, Blount Co (TH); 18 Feb thru season (pair, at nest) Bristol Motor Speedway, Sullivan Co (Michele Sparks), known nest site; thru season (1-2) near Boone Dam, Sullivan Co (RLK, PGR), with a new nest found 26 Feb underneath the nearby Hwy 75 bridge (PGR); 28 Feb (1) Hwy 411, north of Benton, Polk Co (Rick Houlk); plus multiple reports from Hawkins, Sullivan and Washington Cos. **Tree Swallow**: 1 Dec (1) Amnicola Marsh (S.K. Jones, JR); 7 Dec (1) Corryton, Knox Co (Karen Eagle); both late; 7 Feb (2) Marion Co Park (MM, Bill Keeler) and (2) Kyker Bottoms (Valerie Wininger), ers; followed by over 40 reports in Feb from multiple sites in Anderson, Blount, Bradley, Hamilton, Hawkins, Knox, McMinn, Roane, and Sullivan Cos; 21 Feb (80) Fort Loudoun L (Randy Winstead), max. **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**: 3 Dec - 17 Jan (1) Amnicola Marsh (BD, m.ob.), not seen after a cold snap. **Purple Martin**: 13 Feb (1) Amnicola Marsh (David Aborn), ers. **Barn Swallow**: 17 Feb (3) Hitch Pond, Knox Co (WB), only 1 other previous Feb report in state. **Cliff Swallow**: 28 Feb (4) Amnicola Marsh (Mark Pellegri, photo on eBird), new early arrival date in state. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: few reports. **House Wren**: at least ten reports from Bledsoe, Blount, Hamilton, Marion, Rhea, Roane, and Washington Cos. **Marsh Wren**: thru 30 Dec (1) John Sevier L (SHu); 9 Jan (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (BD); 11 Jan / 22 Feb (1 / 3) Alcoa (TH); 14 Jan (1) Baylor L (LT); 21 Feb (1) Kingsport (PGR).

Gnatcatcher - Warbler: **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 5 Dec (1) Douglas Dam, Sevier Co (KW); 25 Dec (1) Seven Islands SP, Knox Co (Doug Mitchell). **Gray Catbird**: 28 Dec (1) Kingsport (Belinda Bridwell), on CBC; 19 Jan (1) Celina, Clay Co (Terry Campbell). **Purple Finch**: few reports. **American Tree Sparrow**: 17 Feb (1) near Johnson City, Washington Co (Larry McDaniel). **Vesper Sparrow**: 27 Dec (1) Claiborne Co (RDH, DMy); 30 Jan (1) Hamilton Co (LT). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: 19 Dec (1) Benton, Polk Co (RDH, DMy). **Baltimore Oriole**: 9 Jan into Mar (1 female, at feeder) Greene Co (Jeffrey Bailey). **Rusty Blackbird**: 1 Feb (250) Alcoa (TH), max; 18 Feb (154) Amnicola Marsh (BD). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 4 Dec thru Feb (1-3) Amnicola Marsh (BD, m.ob.); 4 Dec (1) Tenn. Riverwalk, Hamilton Co (BD); 19 Dec (1) Benton, Polk Co (RDH, DMy); 28 Dec (1) UT Plant Science Farm,

Knox Co (MM, BSc); 28 Dec thru Feb (1-3) Kingsport (BFi, SQ, RLK, m.ob.); 1 Jan (1) Heritage Center Greenway, Roane Co (RoK); 3 Jan (1) East Tenn tree farm, Polk Co (Rick Houlk); 8 Jan (1) Lakeshore Park, Knox Co (Ron Shrieves); 6-31 Jan (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (JR); 14 / 28 Jan (2) Baylor L (LT); 16 Jan (1) Alcoa (WB); 16 Jan (1) Louisville Point Park, Blount Co (Eric Bodker); 21 Jan (1) Kyker Bottoms (TH); 25 Jan (1) Ijams Nature Center, Knox Co (Evan Kidd); 7 Feb (1) Chester Frost Park, Hamilton Co (Rick Houlk); 27 Feb (1) Rivermont Park, Hamilton Co (S.K. Jones). **Common Yellowthroat**: 29 Dec (1 male) Heritage Center Greenway, Roane Co (RoK); 22 Feb (1 female) Kingsport (BFi, SQ). **Northern Parula**: 11 Dec (1) Boone L, Washington Co (RLK), 5th winter record in state (4th in Northeast Tenn). **Palm Warbler**: over three dozen reports from Anderson, Blount, Cocke, Hamilton. Knox, Loudon, McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Roane, Sevier, Sullivan, and Washington Cos. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: 17-23 Jan (1) Riverfront Park, Kingsport (RLK, m.ob.), about 10th winter record in state (4th in Northeast Tenn).

Locations: Alcoa - Blount Co; Amnicola Marsh - Hamilton Co; Baylor L - Hamiltaon Co; Fort Loudoun L - Blount and Knox Cos; Hiwassee Refuge - Hamilton Co; John Sevier L - Hawkins Co; Kingsport - Sullivan Co; Kyker Bottoms - Blount Co; Standifer Gap Marsh - Hamilton Co; Watts Bar L - Roane Co (except where specified otherwise).

RICHARD L. KNIGHT, Johnson City, TN rknight8@earthlink.net

EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION - - It was another mild and wet winter like the previous one. Every month was considerably warmer than usual. The January average temperature was over 7 degrees warmer than normal. The season had very little snow fall. December precipitation was about normal. January precipitation was a little above normal. February was wet with over 8 inches of rainfall.

Cades Cove was closed most of January and February, thus limiting observations there. It was a poor season for waterfowl. Fish Crows are now starting to show up in some of the mountain counties of East Tennessee.

Goose - Falcon: **Snow Goose**: from Nov - 7 Jan (1) Unicoi Co (Joe McGuiness, m.ob.); 4 Dec (1) Sevierville (Michelle Pruitt, photo). **American Black Duck**: 1 Jan (19) Quarry Bog, Shady Valley, Johnson Co (Cade Campbell), on CBC, large number at this site. **Northern Pintail**: 16 Dec - 7 Jan (1) Erwin, Unicoi Co (RLK, m.ob.). **Surf Scoter**: 21 Jan (5) Wilbur L, Carter Co (Brookie Potter, Jean Potter, m.ob.); 21 Jan (4) South Holston L (RLK). **Common Merganser**: 21 Dec / 28 Jan (11 / 5) Laurel L, Blount Co (Harumi Umi / Kathryn Barrow); 12 Jan (1) South Holston L (RLK); 19-22 Jan (2-6) Little R, Blount Co (Kathryn Barrow, Randy Winstead); 1 Feb (1 male, 3 females) Tellico R, Monroe Co (BSc, MM); 19 Feb (pair) Middle Prong Little Pigeon R, Sevier Co (KW). **Eared Grebe**: no reports this fall, winter, or spring at South Holston L, after annual occurrences since Oct 1994 (fide RLK). **Virginia Rail**: 14-27 Feb (1) Buffalo Valley, Unicoi Co (Rob Biller, m.ob.). **Sandhill Crane**: 18 Dec (1, flyover) Gabes Mtn, GSMNP (Harumi Umi); 24 Dec (1) Maymead, Johnson Co (David

Irick, Connie Irick). **Herring Gull**: 24 Feb (1) South Holston L (RLK), only report. **Great Egret**: 15 Dec (1) Erwin, Unicoi Co (Joe McGuiness). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 21 Dec (1 ad) Pigeon Forge, Sevier Co (Mark Armstrong, photo on eBird), on GSMNP CBC, one of few documented winter records in state. **Short-eared Owl**: 20 Dec - 5 Jan (2-4) Cades Cove, GSMNP (WB, m.ob.), afterwards the site was inaccessible until early Mar due to tunnel work, at which time these birds were still present. **Peregrine Falcon**: 28 Jan (1) South Holston L (Roy Knispel et al.); 3 Feb (1) Doe R Gorge, Carter Co (PGR); 27 Feb (1 ad, 1 im) Pittman Center, Sevier Co (KW).

Crow - Warbler: **Fish Crow**: 30 Jan (2) Great Lakes Pond, Carter Co (Thomas McNeil), 2nd Co record; 15 Feb (1) Unicoi Co (Michele Sparks), 1st Co record. **Brown-headed Nuthatch**: 1 Feb (4) Cane Cr, Monroe Co (BSc, MM). **House Wren**: 6 Dec (2) Cades Cove, GSMNP (KW). **Sedge Wren**: 29 Dec (1) Cades Cove, GSMNP (TH), on CBC. **Carolina Wren**: 27 Feb (1 sitting on nest with 5 eggs) Holston Valley, Sullivan Co (Richard Lewis), very early. **Purple Finch**: scarce. **Red Crossbill**: thru season (10+) Roan Mtn (RLK, m.ob.); 22 Dec (15) Cross Mtn, Carter / Johnson Co line (Cade Campbell); 25 Dec (4) Newfound Gap, GSMNP (KW); from Nov thru 5 Jan (3-9) Cades Cove, GSMNP (m.ob.); 5-11 Jan (3-6) Piney Grove Rd, Carter Co (Thomas McNeil). **Pine Siskin**: thru season (max 160 on 2 Jan) Roan Mtn (RLK). 22 Jan (3) Sugarlands, GSMNP (TH); 11-25 Feb (2-8) Townsend, Blount Co (Kathryn Barrow). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 2 Jan (1) Elizabethton, Carter Co (RLK). **Northern Parula**: 14 Jan (1) Sevierville (Chris Myers, photo), 6th winter record in state. **Pine Warbler**: 11 Jan (1) South Holston R Weir, Sullivan Co (SHu et al.).

Locations: GSMNP - Great Smoky Mountains National Park; Roan Mtn - Carter Co; Sevierville - Sevier Co; South Holston L - Sullivan Co.

RICHARD P. LEWIS, Bristol, TN mountainbirds@gmail.com

OBSERVERS

SA - Sharon Arnold
WB - Warren Bielenberg
BD - Bruce Dralle
FF - Frank Fekel
BFi - Bambi Fincher
BFo - Bob Foehring
GG - Graham Gerdeman
MAG - Mark A. Greene
JH - Joe Hall
RH - Rob Harbin
RDH - Ron D. Hoff
TH - Tom Howe
SHu - Susan Hubley
RLK - Richard L. Knight
RoK - Roger Kroodsma
AL - Andrew Lydeard
MM - Morton Massey
NPM - N.P. "Mac" McWhirter
SNM - Susan N. McWhirter
DMy - Dollyann Myers
JN - Justin Nation
DDP - Dick D. Preston
SQ - Sherrie Quillen
PGR - Peter G. Range
JR - Jeremy Rardin
DR - Daniel Redwine
BSc - Beth Schilling
DSh - Debbi Shannon
RSh - Roi Shannon
DJS - Damien J. Simbeck
MS - Michael Smith
RS - Ruben Stoll
VS - Victor Stoll
LT - Luke Thompson
MCT - Michael C. Todd
AT - Allan Troyer
CVN - Cliff VanNostrand
JV - Jim Varner
KW - Keith Watson

MTOS - Memphis Chapter, TOS

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

The Migrant records observations and studies of birds in Tennessee and adjacent areas.

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CONTENTS

STATUS OF BELL'S VIREO IN WEST TENNESSEE
Bob Foehring and Rob Habin 41

FIRST TENNESSEE RECORD OF BOHEMIAN WAXWING
Colin D. Sumrall 44

FIRST TENNESSEE RECORD OF BRONZED COWBIRD
Scott G. Somershoe 45

ROUND TABLE NOTE
WINTER AMERICAN REDSTART IN SHELBY COUNTY
David Bearman 46

2020 TENNESSEE SPRING BIRD COUNTS
Ron Hoff 47

MACK PRITCHARD MEMORIAL
Candy Swan and Bob Ford 56

THE SPRING 2020 TOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Cyndi Routledge 57

THE WINTER SEASON: 1 DECEMBER 2019 – 28 FEBRUARY 2020
Richard L. Knight 58

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION
Dick D. Preston 59

HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION
Stephen C. Zipperer 61

CUMBERLAND PLATEAU/RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION
Richard L. Knight 63

EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION
Richard P. Lewis 66